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FRESNO MAN THREATENS JUDGE, RECEIVES 41-MONTH PRISON TERM

FRESNO – United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that MIGUEL SANCHEZ, JR, 33, of Fresno, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill to a prison term of 41 months for his conviction of one count of threatening to harm a federal magistrate judge while engaged in the performance of her official duties.

The case was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation office in Fresno, California.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys David Gappa and Virna Santos, who prosecuted the case, SANCHEZ admitted in a plea agreement that between December 19 and December 20, 2006, he placed six telephone calls to the chambers of Chief United States Magistrate Judge Sandra M. Snyder and left voice mail messages each time. SANCHEZ identified himself and stated that he was upset about a ruling in a civil matter. In one message he stated that he was giving the judge only 72 hours to "fix" the problem, and he referenced having seen the judge at the courthouse at night. One of the threats was that "hits" would be placed on people, including judges.

SANCHEZ has been in custody as a danger to the community and a flight risk since his arrest on December 22, 2006.

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